

November 7, 1955

Professor Richard Goldschmidt  
Department of Zoology  
University of California  
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Professor Goldschmidt:

Thank you for your overly kind letter— as my wife suggests, the shoe is perhaps on the other foot, that the younger students have been saved from premature seduction by the concept of the atomistic gene by your own advanced and strenuous scepticism. Have you noted, for example, Dr. Beadle's adoption of the suggestion (in the last AIBS Bull.) that the genetic unit of recombination might be a single nucleotide: this might define a genetic atom, but can hardly be a unit of function which is certainly realized at a much higher level of complexity.

I am certainly looking forward to reading your new book, but have not yet had an opportunity to do so. I only just yesterday received the advertising notices of it from the California Press.

With best personal wishes,

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg